

No Particular Place To Go!

"Once something is a passion, the motivation is there"
Michael Schumacher

I think I am coping well with this Lockdown lark:

Day 4,345 of Lockdown and I've begun regular pulse checking, just to make sure there are still signs of life.

Day structures consist of visits to the living room, via the kitchen, and frequent trips to empty the recycling from the indoor bin to the outdoor bin.

On the odd occasion where I feel I don't have enough rubbish to make the trip worthwhile, I've begun recycling the packaging from the stack of Super Noodles I've had in the cupboard since 2016. I add the noodles to a Tupperware pot and can therefore add the packaging to the recycling... this ensures I have enough rubbish to make what has now become 'a rather enjoyable trip'.

In recent weeks I've resorted to consistently rebooking my EON Smart meter installation, this allows me to maintain regular contact with the "Outside World."

Wendy, EON Customer Service agent from Barnsley, knows me by name; it's either "Yes Dan" or "Is that you again?"

I am yet to have a substantial conversation with Wendy as she seems more than keen to move onto the next caller, I'll try again tomorrow.

After counting the bathroom tiles, (650 dark blue tiles and 655 light blue tiles, each tile is 25mm x 50mm), watching all three series of Stranger Things, (it's pretty good and has a fantastic soundtrack) and watching and then re-watching Cobra Kai: It's AWESOME!... I'm running out of things to do!!

There's only so many times you can clean a stainless steel car that you're not using for the winter and even if you do get the thing up to 88mph - *"When this baby hits 88mph....."*

... unlike the film, absolutely nothing happens! *"Item not as described"*

I've decided the next step is to stop scraping the barrel and lift it up and scrape from underneath it, it's time to finally start the mid-season report.

Cadets:

"The winner ain't the one with the fastest car, it's the one who refuses to lose"
Dale Earnhart Jr

I'm sure there's nowhere better to be at 8am than standing in the pouring rain in artic temperatures at Brentwood Karting on a Sunday morning, isn't that right parents?
Then again you guys don't have to be here till 9:30am, 9:42am if you're Leon Curtis' dad!

It's usually 9:26am and reality hits...

Here we go, we'll be lucky to get a lap into qualifying until someone brings a kart into the pitlane

Driver: "Dan, its rubbish"

Me: Forces smile: "But Ethan, you're on pole by over a second"

Driver: "It's still rubbish"

Or

Parent: scampers towards me, phone in hand, tapping the screen

Parent: "Dan, my boy's in kart 27, which was a bad kart 8 months ago"

Me: Rolls eyes, looks up toward the grey sky "Why me?"

"I'm sure it's been fixed in the last 8 months"

Parent: Looks down at screen "He's Last!!!"

Me: "He hasn't done a lap yet....."

The clock ticks over to 09:27

I was daydreaming, "Phewwww"

I'm glad that wasn't reality.....

The Top 5

Dziugas “Jesus” Pravilonis is the cherry sitting on top of the cream that rises to the top!

Basically, Jesus leads the Championship.

With 2 round wins under his belt already it’s no surprise to see Dziugas heading the table, but we’re sure his smile was ear to ear when heard Liam was moving to the Senior Championship for 2021.

Dziugas has just one speed... Rapid, Pac-Man on steroids!

This is sometimes his undoing, which results in me trying *and failing* to hide from him after a bad race. However, more than often his ridiculous speed is what leads to him sitting pretty and winning the majority of the races.

Dziugas can’t relax as his permanent shadow has a name, Ethan Saunders!

Ethan is brilliant. He’s still what I would call “A rookie” but, his meteoric rise and rapid ability to learn already see him fighting for a championship.

Like Dziugas, Ethan is able to win races despite starting from the back of the pack. Ethan even requests to start last in all practice sessions. It takes time to boil an egg and Ethan needs a little more time in the pan to be the fully hard boiled Golden Yolk.

I am confident of a great fight this season between Dziugas and Ethan; let’s see if any other drivers can fight for championship contention.

Current Cadet Champion Liam O’Sullivan holds 3rd, joint on points with Ethan and just 2 points off the championship lead. Liam has now left the Cadet Championship and opted to race in the Senior Championship. Liam wanted to start 2021 in the Senior Championship and potentially walked away from his 2nd title, with wins and maximum points in both rounds 3 and 4. Let’s see how Liam fairs in the Senior League.



The battle of the Jack's is a good one.

Jack Stedman hasn't looked back after picking up 'The Most Improved Driver' last season. He's 4th and with dropped rounds of 24 and 26 points he fully deserves to be there. Jack's having a great season with awesome results in every round so far this season.

Not far behind Jack we have, Jack... another one!

Jack Dabin is currently hugging 5th place like it's his favourite granny just a single point behind the other Jack and with half the championship still to go, at some point, the "Battle of the Jacks" will be well worth the watch. Both Steadman and Dabin's best rounds came on round 2 with Dabin scoring 34 plus the fastest lap and Stedman scoring 31.



6th – 10th positions:

The resurgent Ryan Welsh fills 6th position, 3 points behind the Jacks. With the most recent round (Round 6) being Ryan's best race ever to date he must be biting at the bit waiting for the end of Lockdown so he can continue his *green patch*. Ryan's had a strong first half of the Championship with 4 high scoring rounds. The pressure isn't off Ryan just yet; the pressure from the behind is strong and only getting stronger... Ryan will have to be on form when racing returns.

7th and 8th place in the Championship is so close you cannot separate the drivers, both Reuben Mamelok and Ben Ying-Yang-You are tied on 102 points - 7 points behind Mr Welsh.

Reuben will be hoping for a repeat of his round 4 heroics when he finished in 2nd place overall just behind the now vacant Liam O'Sullivan. But with 3 other high scoring rounds it's no surprise to see Reuben within spitting distance of the Championships top 5 which is where his target needs to be for the end of the season, a top 5 finish.

Ben “Ying-Yang” Yangou is potentially the fastest driver in the Championship, especially on a dry track, however this is a problem when you’re living in England and its January.

Ben, like Ethan Saunders, is still fresh to the competition so to be comfortable in the top 10 is a great achievement. Ben is the highest placed driver in the Championship who’s missed a championship round. Awesome results in rounds 2 and 5 have kept Ben on Reuben’s bumper bolts. The good news for Ben is when we get back to the action it will be dryer.

In 9th place we find the tallest 11 year old in Essex, Leon Curtis.

Leon has raised an eyebrow or two this season with some fantastic results, which is then unfortunately followed by a lukewarm coffee type performance with too many sugars.

Rounds 5, 6 and especially 4 were the highlights of Leon’s seasons so far, a few more results like this will see Leon fighting for a top 5 result in the standings.

After three great results on the spin, let’s hope this is the new improved, slightly taller Leon for the remainder of the season before he progresses to the Senior Championship for next season.

Isn’t that right Leon? 😊

Slipping in through the crack of the door, just sneaking into the top 10, is Max Currens.

Max has the 10th place bachelor pad to himself 17 points behind 9th and 13 points clear of 11th.

Max put together a purple patch on the run up to this new improved Lockdown with his three best scoring rounds, particularly round 5 with some great overtaking on what was his best race of the season.



One’s to watch / notable mentions:

It’s unfair not to see Ashley Hasse inside the top 10 with some of his performances, round 6 was Ashley’s best result of the season with a huge haul of 22 points.

Like Ashley, Hudson Gordan-Huntley is another driver whose results deserve a better Championship position, patience is a virtue and I’m confident we’ll see these pocket rockets accelerate up the Championship table. You need to walk before you can run, take your time and learn as you progress.

Josh Webb found the right side of the bed and got out of it on round 5 with a fantastic result which beats all his other rounds even if you add them all together.

Blakely Joyner's fire at the start of the season needs to be reignited and I'm sure we'll soon see him towards the top 10 positions.

Louie Clarke and the super polite William Flack are 2 brand new hatchlings worth watching for the future; let's just hope Louie's football doesn't get in the way 😊





Seniors:

"Telling people you drive a Nissan Almera is like telling them you've got the Ebola virus and you're about to sneeze"
Jeremy Clarkson

After the calm of a regular Sunday morning, dealing with the Cadet drivers and their lovely parents, here at Brentwood we then must endure the horror show of the arrival of the Senior Championship drivers.

This usually starts with the bloodcurdling, crow-like screech call from somewhere deep in the viewing area...

"Dan, I have a question"

Oh, it never ends, here we go again.... I stop, dead in my track, deep breath:

Hi Max, you're early today....

In my view, The Senior Championship is the toughest hire kart championship in the county and rivals the majority of the "Owner Driver Championships".

This has been clear to see with Brentwood drivers progressing into a professional motorsport career without the "middle man" of what is very often the bank destroying, financial cesspit known as the owner driver route.

In recent weeks we've seen "The Changing of the Guard" with several awesome drivers progressing from Brentwood or stopping karting for various reasons.

Current Champion Kye Kinch, Winner of everything Oliver Flashman, Samuel Essery, Harry Nottage, Aaron Clark to name a few.

The difference I feel at Brentwood when comparing to other choices, is Brentwood's devotion to a driver's development, feedback and improvement.

Who will pick up the vacant baton and set the new standard?

The Top 5:

Double All-star Cup Champion and Cadet Champion, Jack Williamson is sitting pretty at the top of the tree.

Jackpot has found himself a Championship bridesmaid on more than one occasion but now with his huge 19 point advantage the ball is certainly in Jack's court.

2 wins from the first 6 rounds plus dropped scores of 20 points gives Jack a great opportunity to increase his advantage. He's managed to raise an eyebrow or two over his recent weeks and not always for positive reasons but in order to turn from bridesmaid to bride you have to upset a few page boys. Jack's currently in the shop picking his dress and trying it on for size: Can anyone steal Jack's tiara?

Matthew “Man Bun” Robinson is enjoying his best start to a season to date and currently heads a very hotly contested battle for 2nd!

Matthew’s professional approach to Round 2 secured his best points to date and affixed his comfortable placing in the top 5. We’re seeing a “New” Matthew, so far this season and this has resulted in better results each and every week.

We have 50% of the Championship still to go. At some point, ‘Let’s catch Jackpot’!
...however Matthew isn’t alone!



“The Highwayman” and Louise’s best friend, Oliver Bowen holds 3rd. 3 points behind 2nd placed Matthew and 3 points clear of 4th place.

After a 'learning' first season in the Senior Championship, Oliver is flying and driving brilliantly! Awesome results and great performance each week, even if the overall result didn’t reflect has thrown Oliver into Championship contention.

Oliver missed round 1 of the Championship and still finds himself holding 3rd, a great performance in round 3 outscoring all his nearest rivals needs to be repeated more often and I’m sure we’ll have a fight for the championship crown.



“Brentwood Boy” and Schumacher Fan clearly means I’m a fan of the enigma that is 4th placed Max Papworth:

Enigma:

Noun

a person or thing that is mysterious or difficult to understand

Max started the season with a huge point score with 2nd place behind our current Championship leader, 3 more high scores keeps Max in the top 5.

Anyway, more importantly...

If you’re bored between races, pick an F1 race, pick a year and go ask Max who won, (socially distanced of course). He’ll know!! He’ll also tell you who many pitstops they did and if and what they had for breakfast!

From back marker (Yet a front runner at other tracks :P) Max has always fought hard and now finds himself winning racing and fighting for a podium. A gent on and off the track.



Sam “Currently without a Nickname” May surprisingly holds 5th!

It’s a surprise, not due to his driving, but due to that fact that he is the most regular attending member of the “*Dan, my kart is rubbish*” club. Despite the rubbish karts that we *purposely* give Sam, his driving this season has been brilliant. 3 high scoring weeks see him 8 points clear of 6th place and 5 behind “The Papworth”. Sam is finally in a position he deserves to be in, head down, sleeves up and hard work. Sam’s best round was round 4, he scored 27 points and we only gave him 7 bad karts, let’s hope this form continues.

6th - 10th

Two words: Charlie Ratford

Third word: Brilliant.

For someone who “cut his teeth” on indoor karting, 6th place Charlie is doing pretty well!

Many, if not most indoor drivers quit the challenge Brentwood enforces, to run free and return to the comfort of the kindergarten challenge Greenhouse racing brings.

For those who rise to the challenge, look no further than Charlie Ratford who keeps getting better as the season progresses and I keep winding up every time he makes it to the A Final, which he does on a weekly basis.

Nathan Crowley and Jake Riches are two peas in a pod in 7th and 8th, both have had great scoring weeks and both a dropped score of just 2 points.

Jake's recent return to racing competition and straight into the Senior Championship have already produced several great results and Nathan's debut season in the Senior Championship have seen him already score a podium position. I am pretty sure this season will see both Jake and Nathan swap positions throughout but who will be the cat with the cream on round 12?

Charlie Constable's recent introduction to the Senior Championship has seen many highs and lows as he steadied the ship, found his feet and set sail:

In recent week's Charlie's recorded much better results on a more consistent basis and began to rumble with a few of the big boys at the summit of the Championship.

Round 6 of the Championship is Charlie's best result to date, fingers crossed this continues as the season develops.



In 10th position we see Oliver Flashman:

Oliver has only entered 2 rounds this season and he ermm, won both.

Now, I don't want to sound like the biggest member of the Oliver Flashman Fan Club, but I believe drivers can learn from Oliver's approach both on and off track.

He started racing at Brentwood from the age of 8 years old and for 2021 he'll be racing in the Ginetta Junior Championship. Oliver hasn't broke the bank walking the tight rope above the cesspit that is the world of owner driver karting. Like several others, from racing at Brentwood he's presented himself professionally, attracted sponsorship and now progressing to the highest form of junior car racing.

One's to watch / notable mentions:

With this already over 2780 words I'm sure most are bored, gone to bed or already switched off. For those of you half-witted enough to want more, you're in luck.

Josh Bates, we finally know what makes Josh reach Top Gear: Two Croissants!

Josh's spectacular performance on round 6 was due to a breakfast of two croissants, all we need now is a regular attendance and rather than sitting outside the top 10 in 13th he'll make an impact inside the top 10.

Jacob Fells is another driver whose school attendance form needs improving, several good results have been followed with an empty space in a lonely go kart on a Sunday afternoon.

15th place doesn't represent 'Most Improved Driver' Jack Coppola's ability. A tricky start to this season will need a strong finish.

9 points separate 6 positions in the Championship, so Jack and Everyone's favourite South African Trent Moooooroooneyyyyyy will be fighting their way to a better finishing position.

Fan number 1 in the Max Papworth fan club is: Lewis Davis. A great round 1 started Lewis' season off with a bang. However, like a sunny day, we haven't seen this performance since 😞, even adding Rounds 2,3,4,5 & 6 together doesn't match Lewis round 1 result. Lewis needs Josh's Croissant breakfast.



With so many drivers competing in both leagues, but especially the Senior Championship its difficult to write a piece on all, there's still many drivers punching above their weight in the super competitive championship, Jack James, of course! Ben Bowern, Sam Skedge, Sami Butt, Lewis Barnett to name a few.



So that's pretty much it, hopefully you'll be looking forward to getting back on track as soon as good old Boris gives us the green light, until then, if you're bored I would recommend Cobra Kai, at first, I couldn't make my mind up if I was "Fighting for" Miyagi-Do or Cobra Kai but as the series developed It's Miyagi-Do 100% once you've polished off Cobra Kai.

Stranger Things, it's not as good as Cobra Kai but it's set in 1984 , so parents, you get to listen to some of the "oldies" oldies are the goldies!

Maybe you'd rather count your bathroom tiles, or give Wendy a call at EON: 0345 052 0000

There's definitely something burning.....

Super Noodles,

Well, looks like my planned late-night snack needs a rethink, on the plus side I do get a trip to the outdoor recycling bin tomorrow.

Every Cloud.